BIOGRAPHY

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EDWARD ATSLOWE, M.D.

BY R. R. JAMES

THE surname Atslowe is uncommon. In Marshall's "Genealogist's Guide" the only entry at all resembling it is "Attslow," with a reference to Morant's "History of Essex." On consulting Morant (vol. i., p. 205), I find: "Henry Attslow, gent., son and heir of Edward Attslow, M.D.," as dying May 26th, 1622, possessed of the manor and advowson of Downham. Kirby, in "Winchester Scholars," gives two Atslows: Ambrose and Edward; he also gives a Luke Atslowe, who as a matter of fact was the younger brother of Edward.

Mr. Herbert Chitty, Bursar of Winchester College, has enabled me to give the entries from the original register of scholars which Kirby used when compiling his Roll. They are:

1547. Edwardus Atslowe de Eversholde, Lincolniensis Diocesis XI annorum in festo Michaelis preterito. A marginal note gives: rec. Oxon.*

1549. Lucas Atslooe, de Eversholte comitatu Bedforde IX annorum in festo Natalis Domini preterito. Lincolniensis (Diocesis). A marginal note gives: rec. Oxon. artium magister.

1589. Ambrosius Atslow, Sancti Oliveri (sic) London. 10 annorum. I, Maii preterito. London (Diocesis).

Kirby gives the following note under Edward's name: "Scholar New Coll. M.D. Fell. 1553–62. Removed by Queen's Commissioner." Luke appears to have been removed in 1568 because he had refused to take Holy Orders within the time laid down by the College Statutes. Foster ("Alum. Oxon.") gives Edward's degrees as follows: B.A., 1555. M.A., 1559. B.Med., 1564. D.Med., 1566. Munk ("Roll of the Royal College of Physicians") states that Edward Atslowe was "on the 22nd August, 1554, actually created doctor of physic, in the house of Dr. Henry Baylie, situated in the High Street, leading to the Quadrivium, by Dr. Thomas Francis and him, the said Dr. Henry Baylie, by virtue of a commission directed to them by the Venerable Convocation." Atslowe was one of four men (three of them physicians) specially appointed by Convocation to dispute before Queen Elizabeth when she came to be entertained at the University in the early part of September of that year.

Dr. Atslowe was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians between 1565 and 1569. The exact date is uncertain as the records are defective for those years. He was appointed censor in 1569 for three years, and was named elect in 1572 and consiliarius in 1572 and 1583. On Nov. 2nd, 1573, he was married, at Stoke Newington, to Frances Wingfield. He was dead by May 28th, 1594, when his place as elect was filled by a much more distinguished

* "Rec. Oxon." usually implies that the scholar left Winchester for Oxford to become a scholar of New College.

Wykehamist, Dr. Christopher Johnson, the ex-head-master of Winchester, well known as a poet.

Atslowe was an ardent Catholic and partisan of Mary, Queen of Scots. He was twice imprisoned (in 1579 and 1585 according to the "Dictionary of National Biography") for having taken part in designs for her escape; and in a letter from Thomas Morgan to the Queen of Scots we read: "I hear that Dr. Atslow was racked twice, almost to death, in the Tower, about the Earl of Arundell his matters, and intention to depart England." Munk, from whom this is taken, says that the Earl, who died in 1595, settled an annuity on the doctor's widow.

In the "Calendar of State Papers (Domestic) Eliz." (vol. cxxxi.) occurs: 1579. June 15. Examn. of Thos. Assheley taken before Eustace Clovill esq., J.P., Essex, touching certain evidences conveyed away by Mrs. Field from Dr. Atslowe's house after his apprehension.

Dr. Atslowe died intestate. Administration of his estate was granted on May 6th, 1594, to his widow, Frances. In the margin of the record is noted, "Parochie Sancti Olavi Silverstrete." This admon was granted in the probate court of the archdeacon of London (A.B., 2.148). In the third volume, p. 19, we get the compotus of the goods of Dr. Atslowe on May 12th, 1595. Here he is given as of St. Olave, Hart-street. The estate seems to have been worth £561 16*s.* 2*d.*

Frances Atslowe died towards the end of the year 1605. I am indebted to Mr. Herbert Chitty for the notes of her will, which follow:

Fraunces Atsloe of Downeham, Essex, widow. Dated 25 Aug., 1605: proved 3 Dec., following. (P.C.C. Hayes, 89.) She desires to be buried in the parish church of Clerkenwell, near London, next to the grave where her husband was buried. She mentions her daughters Anne and Mary Atsloe; her eldest son, Henry Atsloe, her daughter Frauncis, wife of Sir Edward Frauncis, of Petworth, Sussex, Knt., and their daughter Bridget, her grandchild; her son Edward Atsloe and her son, Ambrose Atsloe, to whom she bequeathes her lease in London which she held of New College, Oxford; and her grandchild, Edward,† son of her son, Henry.

She appointed as her executors her "deare frende Mr. Doctor Oxenbridge"‡ and her son-in-law Sir Edward Frauncis. The latter proved the will.

Henry's son Edward was admitted pensioner (aged 15) at Peterhouse in 1616. He was admitted at Gray's Inn in 1618–19, and was later of Downham.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Chitty for his generous help, and I owe to Mr. Harvey Bloom the notes on the admon of Dr. Edward.

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† The death of Henry Atslowe has been recorded at the beginning of this paper. His son Edward inherited Downham and was 21 years of age at his father's death. He must have died young, for Henry's daughter, Helen, inherited Downham and carried it in marriage to Sir Wm. Andrew, Bt., whose son, Sir Francis, sold the estate in 1698. (Morant's "Essex.")

‡ Daniel Oxenbridge. See Munk's "Roll," vol. i., p. 193.

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